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QWAN™

怪力乱神

TOKYOPOP®



2

AKI SHIMIZU

怪・力・乱・神
ROMANCE

クワン

2



QWAN™

Volume 2

By
Aki Shimizu



HAMBURG // LONDON // LOS ANGELES // TOKYO

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The Journey Thus Far...

Chikei is your average wandering ne'er-do-well... until he crosses paths with Qwan, a mysterious amnesiac kid who swallows demons whole and claims to be from heaven.

Never one to miss an opportunity to mooch off others, Chikei takes up with Qwan to earn a few bucks by ridding towns of evil spirits. In their travels they meet Daki, a young girl with the power to control insects. She has the scent of a demon all over her, but try as he might, Qwan cannot eat her. Then in the next town they meet Daki's father, a frightening man named Yuushi who also smells of demons, and Shaga, a mysterious prostitute who seems to know a little too much about Qwan.

After Chikei narrowly escapes an attack by Yuushi, Shaga tells Qwan to seek the Essential Arts of Peace--a scroll that, according to Shaga, will reveal Qwan's true identity and purpose. It is said to be hidden deep within the walls of the Imperial Palace, so Qwan leaves Chikei in the brothel and sets off to find the Emperor's chief eunuch, Cao Jie--reputedly the only man who could get him past the guards.

As fate would have it, he runs into Aman, Cao Jie's grandson. Aman had just led Qwan to the chief eunuch...and Yuushi, who also seeks the scroll, is hot on his heels.





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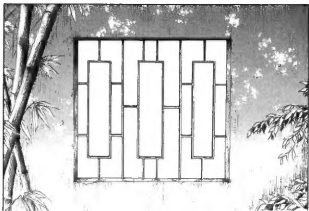
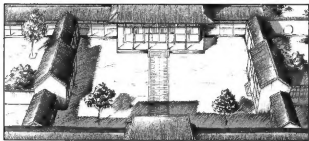
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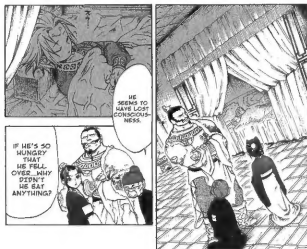
HOWEVER,
WHAT WILL
HAPPEN
WHEN
CHAN
BECOMES
HIS TRUE
SELF?

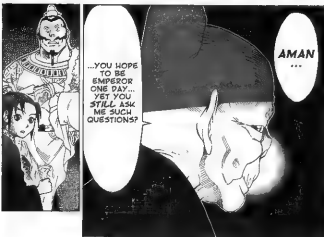
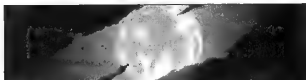
NO
ONE
CAN
SAY.

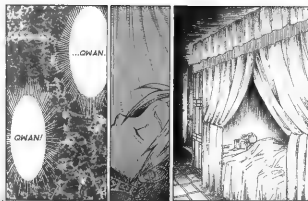
THE
ESSENTIAL
ARTS OF
PEACE

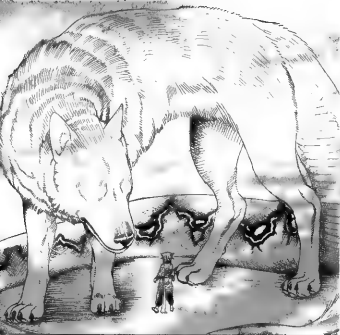
ACCORDING
TO BUJANG,
THIS IS THE
SCROLL THAT
WILL HELP
CHAN PIECE
TOGETHER
HIS IDENTITY.











I DON'T
CARE...
I'M
HUNGRY...



AND WITH
YOUR BODY
IN THAT
CONDITION

HOW CAN
I EXPECT
YOU TO DO
WHAT YOU'RE
MEANT TO...
WHEN YOU
SEEM TO
HAVE LOST
WHO YOU
ARE?

TER-
RIBLY
DISAP-
POINTING.



OPEN
YOUR
EYES
!!

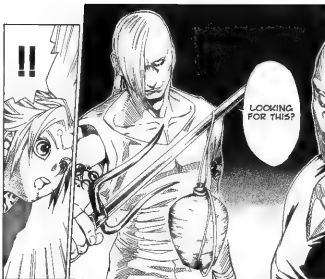
FOOLISH
CHILD!

AND YOU
HAVE EYES
BUT CAN'T
SEE! HAVE
EARS BUT
CAN'T
HEAR!



YOU...
DON'T
HAVE
EYES.
BUT YOU
CAN SEE
ME...?







HANG ON...LET ME PLAY WITH HIM A BIT.



HAKU-HIKO... FINISH HIM.



...NOW GIVE IT BACK!!

DAMN IT...IF I WEREN'T SO HUNGRY, YOU GUYS WOULD BE TOAST...





IT WOULD BE
A CRIME TO
LET A MERE
BOY LIKE
YOU LAY
HIS GRUBBY
LITTLE
FINGERS
ON IT.

HE WHO HOLDS
THE ESSENTIAL
ARTS OF PEACE
MUST BE
WORTHY OF
HOLDING THE
EARTH IN THE
PALM OF HIS
HAND.



HMPH.
ALL
RIGHT.

NOW
FINISH
HIM!

YOU
TALK
TOO
MUCH

HAKUHIKO!

THE
SCROLL'S
RIGHTFUL
POSSESSOR
IS OUR
MISTRESS!
FA--

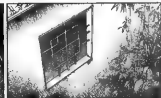


WHY
ARE
YOU
DOING
THIS?!

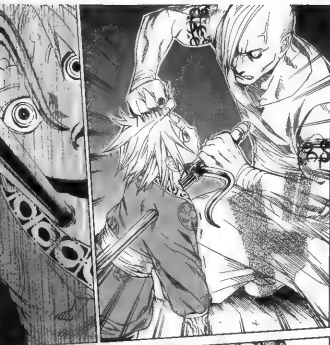


AH, YES.
WHEN WE
HUNT, WE
FIRST USE
POISON TO
TAKE AWAY
OUR PREY'S
FREEDOM OF
MOTION.

THIS
POISON
WILL
SPREAD
THROUGH
YOUR
BODY,
CORRODE
YOUR
FLESH...
AND YOU
WILL DIE.



FOR OUR
MISTRESS.











SO I DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO ME! JUST PLEASE DON'T EAT HIM!!

...BUT THESE TWO... THEY RAISED ME! THEY'VE ALWAYS BEEN AT MY SIDE!



IT'S...ALL MY FAULT. SO PLEASE... STOP...



MY FATHER SENT THEM... THEY HAD NO CHOICE!



WHY NOT?! THEY'RE THE ONES WHO ATTACKED ME!



LADY DAME.



I REALIZE WE'RE THE ONES WHO STARTED IT. SO IT'S UNDERSTANDABLE THAT YOU'D WANT TO EAT HIM...



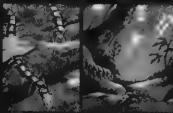
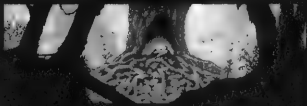
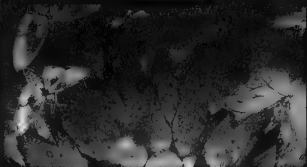
THEN... YOU'RE GOING TO EAT HIM. NO MATTER WHAT?!

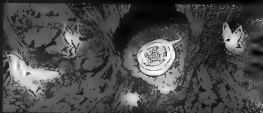
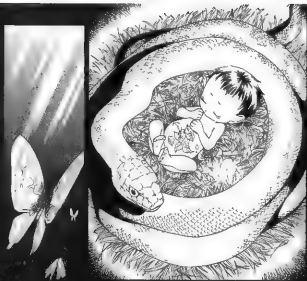


AND IF I DON'T EAT, MY LEG WON'T HEAL!

BUT I'M HUNGRY.



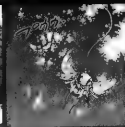
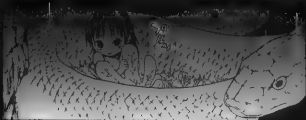
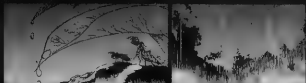




IT TRULY
WAS A
BIZARRE
SIGHT...

...A LONE
HUMAN
BABY IN
A FOREST
OF BUGS.









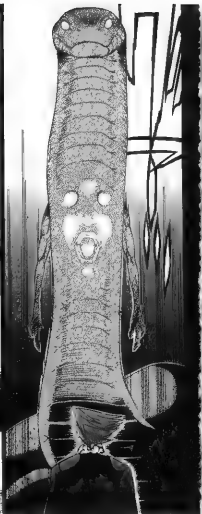
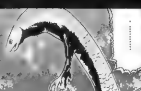


I'LL
HAVE
YOU
KNOW
...

...THIS
GIRL
IS OUR
CHILD!
YOU
HAVE NO
RIGHT TO
TELL US
OTHER-
WISE!!



BUT
WOULD
A TRUE
PARENT
STAND
IDLY BY
WHILE
HER CHILD
SUFFERS?



...IN
ORDER
TO HEAL
HER, I
WILL
NEED
TO TAKE
HER WITH
ME.

HOW-
EVER

HEALING
THIS GIRL
WILL
BE NO
PROBLEM
FOR ME.

WHAT
?!



LOOK
AT THE
STATE
SHE'S
IN!

OH, COME
NOW. A
HUMAN
CANNOT BE
RAISED BY
BUGS.

BUT
ONCE HER
ILLNESS
IS CURED,
YOU WILL
RETURN
HER TO
US!

SPIDER,
YOU
MAY
TAKE
THIS
CHILD.

SESHIGAKU,
HIMURAO
TAKE CARE
OF HER

VERY
WELL....

HOW
CAN
HE
LET
HER
GO...?

MY
TRIBE
AND I
HAVE
RAISED
THIS
CHILD
WITH
GREAT
CARE...
AND
FOR SO
LONG.

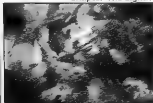
PLEASE
ALLOW
US TO GO
PROTECT
THE GIRL.

LARRY
TOURNA

IF THE
SPIDER
TRIES
ANYTHING
WITH HER,
WE WILL
USE OUR
POISON
STINGERS
TO STRIKE
DOWN



Chapter The Eighth



Wherein Gwan, Allied by Aman, Enters the Palace

...TO HER
VULGAR
KIDNAPPER.



THAT GWAN
HAS NOW
ENSNARED
DAGO AND
SEISHIMAKU
?



THEN
FOLLOW
ME...

YOU WISH
TO SEE
YOUR
DAUGHTER,
TOUPA?



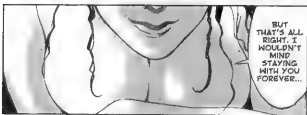
...HAS
SOME-
THING...
HAP-
PENED...
TO DAGO?

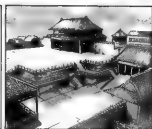
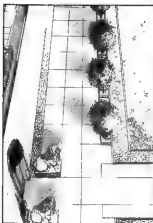
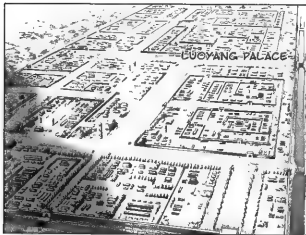


UGHHH...
YUUSHI...



THAT'S
RIGHT...
I HAVE
HER







WELL, FOR
ONE THING,
WE DON'T
HAVE ANY
PROOF
THAT WE'RE
MESSENGERS..



THAT'S
EVEN
WORSE
!!!

PROOF?
ALL WE
HAVE TO
DO IS
BEAT
'EM UP!



HEY,
YOU!



WHAT'S
WITH
THEM...?



SNEAK-
ING IN
HERE
WOON'T
BE EASY.



LADY
DAKI...
I HAVE
AN IDEA.

HUH?



THIS IS THE
NORTHERN
PALACE OF
LUOYANG. SINCE
IT HOUSES THE
EMPEROR, IT'S
PROTECTED
NOT ONLY BY
GUARDS, BUT
ALSO AGAINST
SPELLS.



EUP IT
WOULDN'T?

UHM...
I DON'T
THINK
THAT
WOULD
WORK

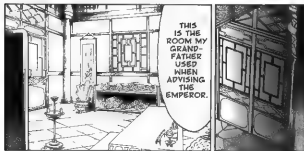
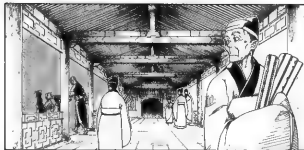


We are
messengers of
Gao Jie

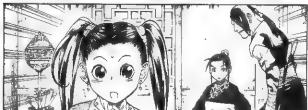


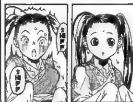
WHY DON'T
WE WALK IN
PRETENDING
TO BE
MESSENGERS
OF GRAND
SUNUCH GAO
JIE?













AND, UHH...
WHY IS HE
NAKED?



WHAT
DID
YOU
BRING
HIM
HERE
FOR?



WHAT THE
HELL?
I WAS
IN THE
BROTHEL
JUST A
SECOND
AGO.



UHHH
YEAH

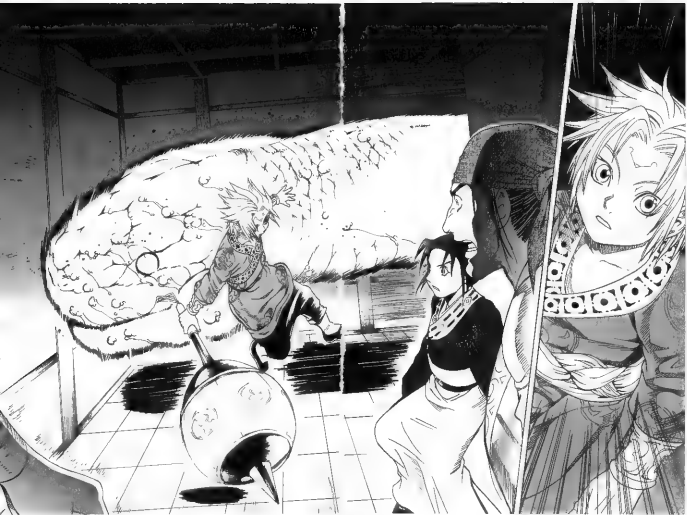
UHHH...
ARE
YOU...
ALL
RIGHT?



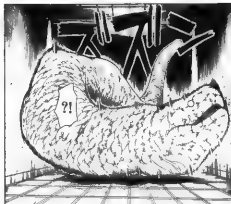


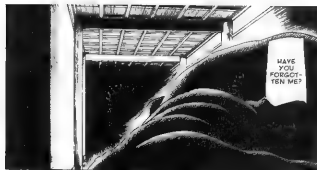
Wherein Qwan Flirts with Death and Daki Fears for the Bug Forest













WITHOUT
YOU...
WE ARE FALLING
INTO
DECAY.



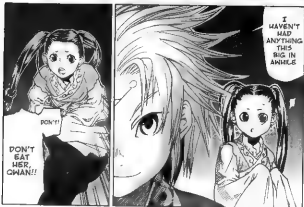
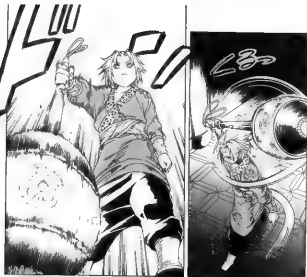
**DAKI!
COME
HOME!!**

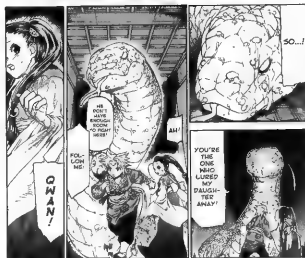
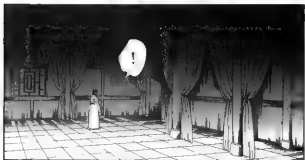
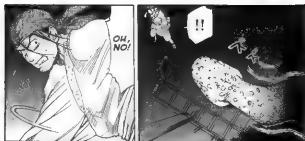


MY BODY IS
WEAK...I'VE
LOST MY
STRENGTH...

...I AM NO
LONGER
MYSELF.

AND THE
BUGS IN THE
FOREST ARE
SUFFERING,
AS WELL...
THEY'RE
DYING...
ONE AFTER
ANOTHER.







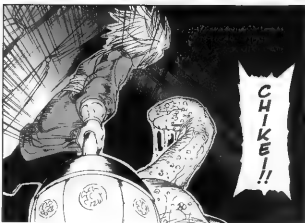
LADY DAKI...
IT'S
TOO
LATE
FOR
LADY
TOUDA

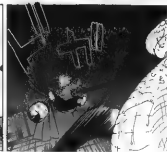


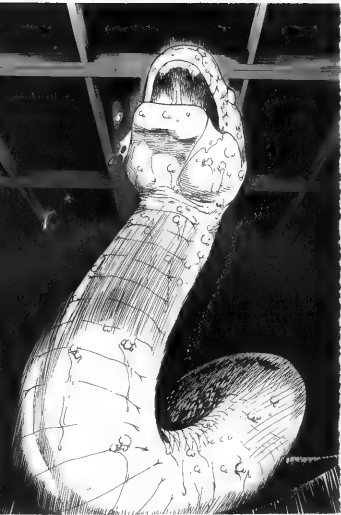
WE
MUSTN'T
ALLOW
HER
TO
SUFFER
ANYMORE



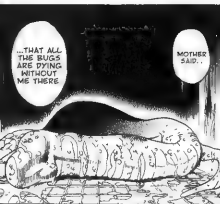












...THAT ALL
THE BUGS
ARE DYING
WITHOUT
ME THERE

MOTHER
SAID...



HEY
SIGHT-
GMYU

YES
MY
SIST



WHAT
SHOULD
I DO?

WHAT...
AM I?



LUCKY,
HUH?

WAIT--
HEY!!
GWAN!



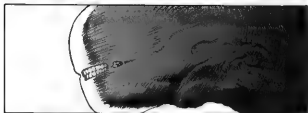
YOU'RE
LUCKY
TO BE
ALIVE,
GWAN!

THAT
BRACE
ATE
FOUR
PEOPLE

OUR FIRST
PRIORITY IS
OBTAINING
THE
ESSENTIAL
ARTS OF
PEACE

THE BEST
WILL
COME
LATER

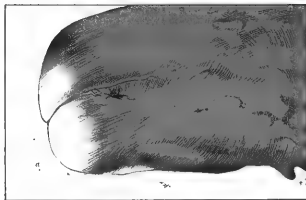
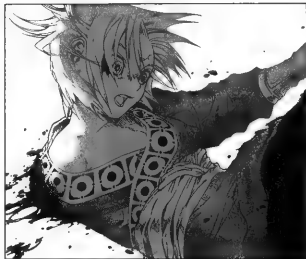




~~~~~







Wherein Daki Sheds Tears  Over the Death of Her Mother











IF MONEY  
IS WHAT  
YOU WANT,  
I WILL GIVE  
IT TO YOU.  
THAT AND  
MORE, IF  
YOU LIKE.

BUT  
RIGHT  
NOW, YOU  
ARE THE  
ONLY ONE  
WHO IS FAST  
ENOUGH TO  
MAKE IT!



IT'S  
JUST  
AHEAD  
ON THE  
RIGHT!  
GO!  
NOW!

WE WILL  
DISTRACT  
THE SNAKE.  
GO TO THE  
TREASURY  
AND FIND THE  
ESSENTIAL  
ARTS OF  
PEACE!



YOU  
GOT IT!



AND  
REVENGE  
TOO, IF I  
PLAY MY  
CARDS  
RIGHT!



HEY!  
WHERE  
ARE  
YOU  
GOING?



ARE YOU  
CRAZY?!  
YOU THINK  
I'M GONNA  
SPEND ALL  
DAY HANGING  
AROUND  
THESE  
MONSTERS?!



YOUR  
FATHER  
MAY BE  
HEADING  
FOR THE  
ESSENTIAL  
ARTS OF  
PEACE  
RIGHT  
NOW!

MUST  
HURRY



YOU  
...



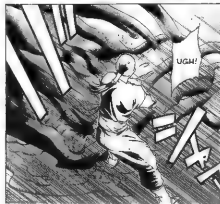
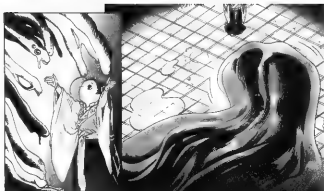
IS HE  
NOT  
YOUR  
FRIEND  
?



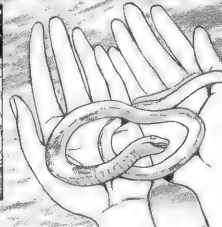
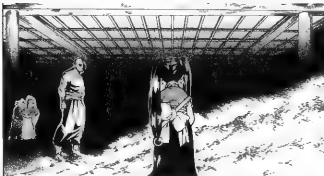
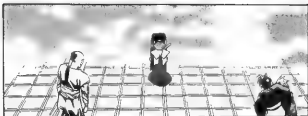
HOW  
SHOULD I  
KNOW?! I  
WAS JUST  
HANGING  
AROUND  
HIM TO  
TAKE  
SOME  
CASH!!

BUT  
GETTING  
EATEN BY  
MONSTERS  
IS WHERE  
I DRAW  
THE  
LINE!!

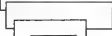




LADY  
DAKI!!







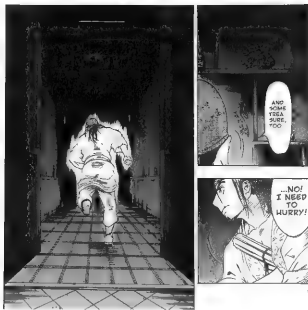


Whorin Blood Spews forth from Swan's Forehead!



OH, WELL.  
I'LL JUST  
TAKE  
ONE AND  
FIND OUT  
LATER.

IS  
THIS  
IT?  
WISH I  
COULD  
READ...



AND  
SOME  
YESA  
SURE,  
TOO.

...NO!  
I NEED  
TO  
HURRY!





ナ  
ナ



RIGHT NOW, HAKUHIKO ONLY HAS THE STRENGTH TO STAY IN BUG FORM, BUT HE SHOULD FULLY RECOVER



IT APPEARS THAT SOMEHOW OMAN CAN MAKE INJURIES DISAPPEAR BY EATING THE ONE WHO INFLECTED THEM.

BUT WHEN HE SPIT OUT HAKUHIKO, THE WOUNDS WENT BACK TO NORMAL.



SEISU-GAKU



I SUPPOSE BECAUSE HE RECEIVED THOSE WOUNDS FROM HAKUHIKO.



WHATEVER HAPPENS NOW, IT'S OURS THAT YUUSHI USED US



OH, NO...

HOWEVER, IF OMAN WANTS HIS WOUNDS TO HEAL AND HIS ARM BACK, HE WILL HAVE TO EAT BOTH HAKUHIKO AND LADY TOURA.



WE WERE LUCKY THE PALACE GUARDS WERE ASLEEP.

I SUPPOSE WE'RE SAFE HERE?



AFTER AN INCIDENT LIKE THAT, THERE'S NO DOUBT THEY'LL SNOOP AROUND MY GRAND-FATHER'S HOUSE.

BUT THEY KNOW I WAS IN THE PALACE.



THESE BUGS EAT PUS, BUT AT LEAST THEY'LL COVER THE WOUND.



WE NEED TO STOP THE BLEEDING

OH, WELL. WE'LL WORRY ABOUT THAT LATER. WHAT ABOUT OMAN? IS HE ALIVE?



DID YOU CHECK  
THE  
CONTENTS  
OF THE  
SCROLL  
TO BE  
SURE?



WELL,  
I CAN'T  
READ...  
SO  
HOW  
COULD  
I?



LOOK-  
ING FOR  
THIS?

I, THE  
GREAT  
CHIKKI,  
GRABBED  
IT FOR YA!



WH-WHAT  
DID YOU  
EXPECT?!  
MOST  
PEOPLE  
CAN'T  
READ, YOU  
KNOW!



I PICKED  
THE  
ABSOLUTE  
WORST  
MAN FOR  
THE JOB.

I  
SHOULD  
HAVE  
GONE  
MYSELF.



US, LADY  
TOUDA...  
AND LADY  
DAKI,  
TOO...

WE MADE  
UP THE  
SCENARIO  
IN THE  
PALACE...  
WE WERE  
NOTHING  
MORE THAN  
HIS PAWNS.



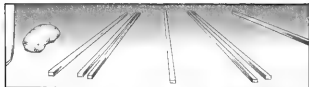
OHANI  
ARE YOU  
ANAKES?!



WHERE'S  
THE  
ESSENTIAL  
ARTS OF  
PEACE...?







MASTER,  
YOU HAVE A  
GUEST!



YES, I  
KNOW.  
SHOW  
HIM IN.



SO  
HE'S  
HERE...



OH, GRAND  
MARSHALL  
CHIN! YOU  
CAME ALL  
THIS WAY  
ALONE?



IS  
LORD  
JOU  
KAI  
HOME?

Y-YES,  
HE IS!  
JUST  
ONE  
MOMENT.



BUT THE MOST MYSTERIOUS PART...IS THAT NO ONE FROM THE PALACE HAS ANY MEMORY OF LAST NIGHT.



AND THERE WERE SEVERAL CORPSES WHICH APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN PARTIALLY DIGESTED

IT SEEMS THERE WERE TRAILS LEFT BY A GIANT SNAKE OR SLUG.



THE THING IS...THE PALACE GUARDS CAME TO CONSULT ME OVER A BUSINESS THEFT THIS MORNING.



OH...A THEFT AT THE PALACE?

NO MATTER I DO NOT GAVE ANY PARTICULAR BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO MYSELF



I APOLOGIZE FOR SHOWING UP SO SUDDENLY



ONLY THE SCROLLS



AND DESPITE THE WAY THE TREASURY WAS TORN UP, ONLY THE SCROLLS APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN TOUCHED.



THE TREASURY WAS RANSACKED AND SOME OF ITS ITEMS WERE STOLEN...BUT THAT WAS NOT ALL.



THERE WERE INTRUDERS IN THE PALACE BEFORE DAWN.

天已定

THE MANDATE OF HEAVEN<sup>®</sup>  
IS ALREADY OVER.

REFERS TO THE RULING AND CARE  
OF A PEOPLE OR A COUNTRY



"THE  
MANDATE  
OF  
HEAVEN  
IS  
ALREADY  
OVER."



...WHY  
WOULD  
THIS BE  
ON A  
SCROLL  
IN THE  
PALACE?

THIS...  
WHY...



HEY,  
WHAT'S  
IT SAY?



.....



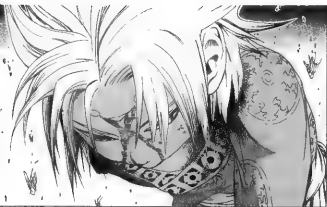
...IS A  
PREDICTION  
OF THE FALL  
OF HAN.

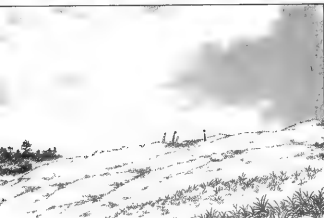
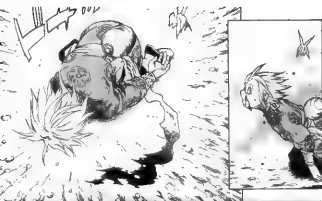
I AM  
AFRAID  
TO  
SAY IT  
MYSELF,  
BUT  
THIS...













FOR A DEMON  
TO APPEAR,  
THE PALACE  
ITSELF WOULD  
HAVE HAD TO  
WISH IT THAT  
WAY.



THOUGH  
KNOWING THE  
STATE OF THE  
EUNUCHS'  
COURT, THAT  
MIGHT NOT BE  
FAR-FETCHED.



A PHIE-  
NOMENON  
POINTING  
TOWARDS  
THE END OF  
THE HOUSE  
OF MAN.



THIS IS  
NO MORE  
THEFT. IT  
IS A PHENOM-  
ENON. DO  
YOU NOT  
AGREE?



BUT EVEN  
MORE  
CURIOUS...  
IS THE  
QUESTION  
OF WHY.

IT IS TRULY  
MYSTERIOUS  
THAT  
NOTHING  
WAS STOLEN,  
AND ONLY  
THE SCROLLS  
WERE  
JUMBLED.



THE DEAD  
DID NOT  
APPEAR TO  
HAVE BEEN  
SLAIN BY  
THE HANDS  
OF A MAN.  
IT WAS  
AS IF A  
TERRIBLE  
DEMON  
HAD  
APPEARED  
IN THE  
PALACE.



THE  
ORIGIN  
OF THIS  
SLUG-  
LIKE  
TRAIL?



SINCE THE  
PALACE IS THE  
HOME OF THE  
EMPEROR, THE  
MONKS SET  
A BARRIER  
AGAINST  
DEMONS  
LONG AGO.

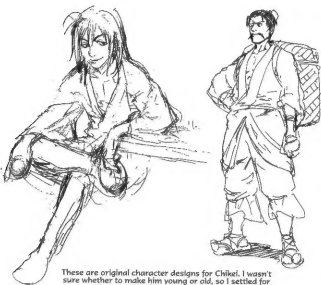
STRANGE.





# ~Afterword~

Thank you very much for buying Qwan Volume 2!  
Several characters in this manga are actually real  
historical figures: for example, Aman, Cao Jie, Chin  
Ban and Jou Kai (among others). Those interested  
in Chinese history may enjoy reading up on them.

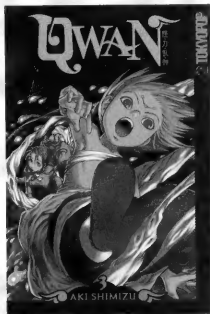


These are original character designs for Chikei. I wasn't  
sure whether to make him young or old, so I settled for  
something in between...



continued in Qwan Volume 3

In the Third Chronicle of Qwan...



As Chikei and Aman await signs of Qwan's recovery, Daki returns to the bug forest in an attempt to save it. Meanwhile, Yuushi finds that the aristocrat Iou Kai now possesses the Essential Arts of Peace. Who is Iou Kai really, and what is his connection to the scroll?

More surprises await as we learn of Shaga's connection to Qwan, journey to the land of Qwan's origin...and meet the author of the Essential Arts of Peace, who has the power to explain it all!



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Fantasy  
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The search for the Essential Arts of Peace scroll is a dangerous and deadly affair! Daki, sent by Yuushi to stop Qwan, has agreed to lead him to the sutra. But when Yuushi, who also wants the sutra, finds out, he furiously drives Daki's mother to ambush Qwan! Can Qwan get to the Essential Arts of Peace in time?



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